Ford orders probe of CIA

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WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford ordered an internal inquiry and three congressional probes were promised Monday over charges of widespread domestic spying by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Ford, in Vail, Colo., commanded Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger to get a report to him on the issue "within a matter of days," a spokesman said.

Kissinger, in turn, asked an accounting by Ambassador to Iran Richard Helms, who was the CIA director during the period in which the alleged unlawful activities were said to have occurred.

Sources said Kissinger would assemble information from current CIA Director William Colby and others, probably within 48 hours.

Press Secretary Ron Nessen said Ford transmitted the order to Kissinger because the secretary of state is head of the National Security Council, which coordinates all federal intelligence operations.

A Justice Department official said earlier Monday that acting Atty. Gen. Laurence H. Silberman "has been in touch" with Colby and "the matter is under review."

But Nessen said it was incorrect to conclude that the Justice Department was taking its own action. "The Justice Department has no role at all ... at the moment," he said.

Silberman, filling in for vacationing Atty. Gen. William B. Saxbe, confirmed later that he had communicated with

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Colby but said the department itself was not pursuing the matter.

Colby and other CIA officials, meanwhile, refrained from public comment as they huddled at the agency's headquarters in nearby Langley, Va., to discuss developments triggered by the New York Times account, published Sunday.

The Times reported that the CIA had maintained files on at least 10,000 Americans and committed a number of other unlawful acts, including break-ins and wiretapping, in a campaign aimed at the antiwar movement during the administration of former President Richard M. Nixon.

Sen. John Sparkman, D-Ala., said he was "shocked by the revelations regarding CIA activities in the United States," and declared "It is my intention ... to have the Foreign Relations Committee look into these matters" when the new Congress convenes next year.

Sparkman, who will be chairman of that panel, said "This is a domestic matter but there have been other operations of the CIA in the foreign field that have disturbed the members of the committee."

Separate hearings were vowed by Sen. John C. Stennis, D-Miss., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and Rep. Lucien N. Nedzi, D-Mich., chairman of the House Armed Services subcommittee on intelligence.

Stennis declared that "The CIA must strictly observe the limitations of its statutory authority. Such power does not include the operation of a domestic intelligence system."

Stennis said he has no fears that any violations are now occurring. "It is my firm belief that Mr. Colby ... has been faithful in observing the basic charter," he said.